

INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER (IBC) is an advanced and accelerated form of breast cancer usually not detected by mammograms or ultrasounds. Inflammatory Breast Cancer requires immediate aggressive treatment with chemotherapy prior to surgery and is treated differently than more common types of breast cancer. Inflammatory Breast Cancer usually grows in nests or sheets rather than as a confined, solid tumor and therefore can be diffuse throughout the breast with no palpable mass.

Some women who have Inflammatory Breast Cancer may remain undiagnosed for long periods, even while seeing their doctor to learn the cause of their symptoms. The symptoms are similar to mastitis, a benign (non-cancerous) breast infection and some doctors, not recognizing Inflammatory Breast Cancer, will prescribe antibiotics. If a response to antibiotics is not apparent after a week, a biopsy should be performed or a referral to a breast specialist is warranted. Therefore, if creams/salves do not help with continuous itching, a rash on your breast or what appears to be a bruise doesn't dissipate within a week, insist on a skin or punch biopsy. If you have been diagnosed with mastitis and antibiotics don't help, insist on a skin biopsy!

**You don't have to have a lump
to have breast cancer.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on Inflammatory Breast Cancer (IBC), please visit The Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation at www.ibcresearch.org or call toll free at 1-877-STOP-IBC.

A free IBC informational brochure and bookmark with IBC symptoms may also be obtained at:
www.ibcresearch.org/brochurescards/brochure.pdf
and www.ibcresearch.org/bookmark/



Andi was a vibrant, active young woman who was eager for life. Sadly, Andi lost her battle with Inflammatory Breast Cancer at the age of 16.

Please join the Inflammatory Breast Cancer Research Foundation in educating your friends and family about the symptoms and treatment of IBC.



Andrea "Andi"
Oct. 2, 1986 - Sept. 4, 2003

Knowing the Symptoms of *Inflammatory Breast Cancer* May Save Your Life

TYPICAL SYMPTOMS OF INFLAMMATORY BREAST CANCER

- Swelling, usually sudden, sometimes a cup size in a few days
- Persistent itching of breast or nipple
- Pink, red or dark colored area (called erythema) sometimes with texture similar to the skin of an orange (especially on the underside of one's breast)
- Ridges and thickened areas of the skin
- What appears to be a bruise or insect bite that does not go away
- Breast pain, warm to the touch – inverted nipple

CONDUCT MONTHLY SELF EXAMS

- Each month, it is essential that young women and adult women conduct self breast exams.
- Conduct your breast examination after your menstrual cycle.
- LOOK for the above symptoms of Inflammatory Breast Cancer
- FEEL for lumps found in other types of breast cancer.
- VISIT your doctor immediately if you have any of the above symptoms and have not been diagnosed with IBC.